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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

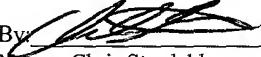
Applicant: HIRAMATSU et al. Docket No.: 10873.872USWO
Serial No.: unknown Filed: concurrent herewith
Int'l Appln No.: PCT/JP01/04514 Int'l Filing Date: May 29, 2001
Title: MEASURING EQUIPMENT AND MEASURING METHOD USING
CARTRIDGE CONTAINER, AND PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By 
Name: Chris Stordahl

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment. (Marked-up Copy Attached).

IN THE ABSTRACT

Insert the attached Abstract page into the application as the last page thereof.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 13 as follows:

3. (Amended) The measuring equipment according to claim 1, further comprising information read means to read information from a magnetic recording medium, wherein the operation control means directs the information read means to read measurement conditions recorded in the recording medium and to store them in the measurement condition storage means.

4. (Amended) The measuring equipment according to claim 1, wherein the measurement condition storage means has a first area where measurement conditions for using the special-purpose cartridge container are recorded and a second area where measurement conditions for using the general-purpose cartridge container are stored, and

the operation control means analyzes the measurement conditions read from the recording medium by the information read means, and stores them in the first area when the measurement conditions are measurement conditions related to a measurement using a special-purpose cartridge container and in the second area when the measurement conditions are measurement conditions related to a measurement using a general-purpose cartridge container.

6. (Amended) The measuring equipment according to claim 1, wherein all reagents and solvents needed for the measurement are injected separately into the special-purpose cartridge container.

7. (Amended) The measuring equipment according to claim 1, wherein a waste vessel is disposed in the cartridge container to store waste liquid.

13. (Amended) The program recording medium according to claim 11, wherein the measurement conditions are recorded in a magnetic recording medium, and the control program inputs the measurement conditions from magnetic information read means equipped in the measuring equipment.

REMARKS

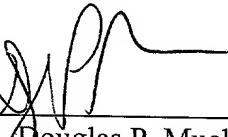
The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 13.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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Dated: February 12, 2002

DPM/tvm

ABSTRACT

In the measuring equipment, a nozzle driving unit 10 equipped with a bar code reader decides whether the cartridge container being set is a special-purpose container, in which a predetermined reagent is injected separately in advance and to which a bar code is attached, or a general-purpose container that is prepared by separately injecting reagents by hand into an empty cartridge container, and when the cartridge container is a special-purpose container, a CPU 1 reads out measurement conditions from a measurement condition storage part for special-purpose reagents 3a based on the information included in the bar code, and when the cartridge container is a general-purpose container, the CPU 1 reads out measurement conditions for items of a measurement object selected and input by a measurer from a measurement condition storage part for general-purpose reagents 3b to conduct a measurement.

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3. The measuring equipment according to claim 1 [or claim 2], further comprising information read means to read information from a magnetic recording medium, wherein the operation control means directs the information read means to read measurement conditions recorded in the recording medium and to store them in the measurement condition storage means.

4. The measuring equipment according to claim[s] 1 [to 3], wherein the measurement condition storage means has a first area where measurement conditions for using the special-purpose cartridge container are recorded and a second area where measurement conditions for using the general-purpose cartridge container are stored, and the operation control means analyzes the measurement conditions read from the recording medium by the information read means, and stores them in the first area when the measurement conditions are measurement conditions related to a measurement using a special-purpose cartridge container and in the second area when the measurement conditions are measurement conditions related to a measurement using a general-purpose cartridge container.

6. The measuring equipment according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 5], wherein all reagents and solvents needed for the measurement are injected separately into the special-purpose cartridge container.

7. The measuring equipment according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 6], wherein a waste vessel is disposed in the cartridge container to store waste liquid.

13. The program recording medium according to claim 11 [or 12], wherein the measurement conditions are recorded in a magnetic recording medium, and the control program inputs the measurement conditions from magnetic information read means equipped in the measuring equipment.